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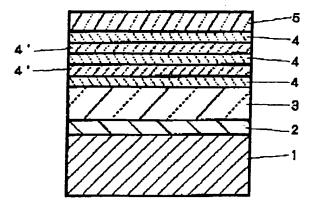
H01L 33/00

TITLE

GALLIUM NITRIDE COMPOUND

SEMIGONDUCTOR LIGHT EMITTING

ELEMENT



ABSTRACT :

PURPOSE: To enable a light emitting layer to be enhanced in crystallinity and emission output by a method wherein a multilayered film is composed of layers specified in thickness.

CONSTITUTION: A buffer layer 2 is made to grow on a sapphire substrate 1, and an N-type Si-doped GaN layer 3 is grown thereon. Thereafter, an In_{0.2}Ga_{0.8}N layer 4 is grown as a well layer, and furthermore an In_{0.04}Ga_{0.96} layer 4' is grown as a barrier layer. The layers 4 and 4' are alternately laminated to form a multilayered film by repeatedly carrying out the above processes. The layers 4 and 4' forming a multilayered film are so set as to be as thick as 5 to 50°. Then, a P-type Mg-doped GaN layer 5 is made to grow, and then the substrate 1 is taken out of a reaction vessel and annealed to lessen the uppermost P-type GaN layer more in resistance. The P-type GaN layer 5 and a multilayered film of a wafer obtained as above are partially etched to make the N-type GaN layer exposed, and an ohmic electrode is provided to a P-type GaN layer and an N-type GaN layer respectively.

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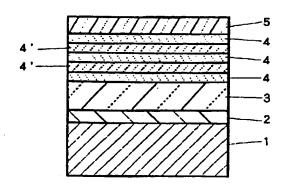
学工業株式会社内

(54) 【発明の名称】 窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光素子

(57)【要約】

【目的】 室化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光素子の発光 山力をさらに向上させる。

【構成】 n型室化ガリウム系化合物半導体層と、p型 窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体層との間に、【値の異なる Int Gaitt N (但し、Xは0 < X < 1) 層が交互に積層 された多層膜層を発光層として具備する空化ガリウム系 化合物半導体発光素子であって、前記多層膜層を構成す る I·n+G a:-+ N層の各膜厚は5オングストローム~5 0 オングストロームの範囲である



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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 n型空化ガリウム系化合物半導体層と、p型室化ガリウム系化合物半導体層との間に、X値の異なる IniGa:iN(但し、Xは0<X<1)層が交互に積層された多層膜層を発光層として具備する室化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光素子であって、前記多層膜層を構成する IniGa:iN層の各膜厚は5オングストローム~50オングストロームの範囲であることを特徴とする空化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光素子。

【請求項2】 前記n型空化ガリウム系化合物半導体層 10 はGa;Al;¬N(但し、Yは0<Y≤1)よりなり、前 記p型室化ガリウム系化合物半導体層はGa;Al;¬N (但し、Zは0<Z≤1)よりなることを特徴とする請求 項1に記載の空化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光素子。

【請求項3】 前記InrGa:-rN層のX値は0<X<0.5の範囲であることを特徴とする請求項1に記載の 室化ガリウム系化合物半導体免光素子。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は空化ガリウム系化合物半 20 導体を用いた発光素子に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】GaN、GaAIN、InGaN、InAIGaN等の空化ガリウム系化合物半導体は直接運移を有し、パンドギャップが1.95cV~6cVまで変化するため、発光ダイオード、レーザダイオード等、発光素子の材料として有望視されている。現在、この材料を用いた発光案子には、n型空化ガリウム系化合物半導体の上に、p型ドーパントをドープした高抵抗なi型の空化ガリウム系化合物半導体を積層したいわゆるMIS 30構造の青色発光ダイオードが知られている。

【0003】 MIS構造の発光素子は一般に発光出力が非常に低く、実用化するには未だ不十分であった。高抵抗な I型を低抵抗な P型とし、発光出力を向上させた P-n接合の発光素子を実現するための技術として、例えば特開平3-218325号公報において、1型空化ガリウム系化合物半導体層に電子線照射する技術が開示されている。また、我々は、特願平3-357046号で1型空化ガリウム系化合物半導体層を400℃以上でアニーリングすることにより低抵抗な P型とする技術を提 の 家した。

[0001]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】室化ガリウム系化合物 半導体を用いた発光素子はMIS構造、p-n接合両面 から研究が進められているが、例えばGaNのp-n接 合を用いたホモ構造の発光素子でも発光出力は数μW~ 数十μWでしかなく、実用化するには未だ不十分であっ た。従って本発明はこのような事情を鑑みてなされたも のであり、その目的とするところは、窒化ガリウム系化 にある.

[0005]

【課題を解決するための手段】我々は空化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光素子をp-n接合を用いたダブルへテロ構造とし、さらに、その発光層を特定の膜厚の窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体を用いた多層膜構造とすることにより上記問題が解決できることを見いだした。即ち、本発明の窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光素子は、n型窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体層と、p型空化ガリウム系化合物半導体層との間に、I値の異なる Int Ga rN (但し、Xは0くXく1) 層が交互に積層された多層膜層を発光層として具備する窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光素子であって、前記多層膜層を構成する Int Ga: TN層の各膜厚は5オングストローム~50オングストロームの範囲であることを特徴とする。

【0006】本発明の窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光 素子において、n型窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体層には、GaN、GaAIN、InGaN、InAIGaN等、ノンドーブ (無添加)の窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体、またはノンドーブの窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体に例えばSi、Ge、Te、Se等のn型ドーパントをドープしてn型特性を示すように成長した層を用いることができる。特に、n型窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体は、その組成をインジウムを含む窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体とするよりも、GarAI:rN(但し、Yは0
1)とした二元混晶、あるいは三元混晶の窒化ガリウムアルミニウムとする方が、結晶性に優れたn型結晶が得られるため発光出力が増大しさらに好ましい。

【0007】また、p型室化ガリウム系化合物半導体層には前記したノンドープの室化ガリウム系化合物半導体に、例えば2n、Mg、Cd、Be、Ca等のp型ドーパントをドープしてp型特性を示すように成長した層を用いることができる。このp型室化ガリウム系化合物半導体層も、特にその組成をインジウムを含む室化ガリウム系化合物半導体とするよりも、Ga:Al::(N(但し、2は0<1≤1)とした二元混晶、あるいは三元混晶の室化ガリウムアルミニウムとする方が、結晶性がよく、より低抵抗なp型結晶が得られやすくなるため好ましい。さらに、p型窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体層をさらに低抵抗化する手段として、前記した特顯平3-357046号に開示するアニーリング処理を行ってもよい。低抵抗化することにより発光出力をより向上させることができる。

【0008】 InrGa:rN層は、X値の異なる<math>InrGa:rN (00.Xicolor) Airrown Airrown

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ガリウム系化合物半導体および、p型室化ガリウム系化 合物半導体との格子定数不整を緩和することができる。 また、多層膜とせず単一のInGaN層で形成したもの よりも、結晶中の格子欠陥が少なくなり、結晶性が向上 する。さらに、IntGattN層の膜厚を5オングスト ローム~50オングストロームの範囲に調整することに より、発光出力を向上させることができる。なぜなら、 この範囲に膜厚を調整することにより、多層膜を構成す るIntGatexN層の格子欠陥を少なくすることがで き、結晶性が向上するため、発光出力が増大する。 In ェGa:-rN層の製厚は、例えばMOCVD法を用いた成 長方法であると、原料ガスであるG a 顔の流量を調整し たり、また成長時間を調整することにより調整可能であ る。また、In:Ca···N層の組成比は原料ガスである 1n級のガス液量、または成長温度を調整することによ り調整可能である。さらに、IniGai-iN層にn型ド ーパント、p型ドーパントをドープして成長させてもよ いことはいうまでもない。

【0009】各In、Ga: (N層のX値は0<X<0.5 化ガリの範囲に調整することが好ましい。X値が0.5以上で 20 べる。 は結晶性に優れたIn、Ga: (N層が得られにくく、発 光効率に優れた発光素子が得られにくくなるため、X値 は0.5未満が好ましい。また、現在、実用化されてい ない青色発光素子を実現するためには上記範囲に調整す で木彩る必要がある。

[0010]

【作用】例えば、n型GaN層と、膜厚100オングストロームのIn0.2Ga0.8N層と、p型GaN層とを順に検層したダブルヘテロ構造の発光素子の場合、GaNの格子定数はおよそ3.19オングストローム、InN 30の格子定数はおよそ3.54オングストロームであり、この構造の発光素子では、GaN層とIn0.2Ga0.8N層との界面の格子定数不整が2.2%近くもある。このため、GaN層とIn0.2Ga0.8N層との界面でミスフィットによる格子欠陥が発生し、発光層であるIn0.2Ga0.8N層の結晶性が悪くなるため、発光出力が低下する原因となる。

に、格子定数不整が緩和されるため、その分、発光層の 結晶性が向上し、全体として格子欠陥の少ない In G a N層を発光層とできるため、発光出力が増大する。

【0012】図2に、上記発光素子(n型GaN層+1 n0.2Ga0.8N+1 n0.04Ga0.96N+1 n0.2Ga0.8N+1 n0.04Ga0.96N+1 n0.2Ga0.8N+1 n0.04Ga0.96N+1 n0.2Ga0.96N+p型GaN層)において、多層膜の各膜厚を同一とした場合、その膜厚と、発光素子の相対発光出力との関係を示す。この図に示すように、膜厚を5オングストローム~50オングストロームとした Int Gai N層を積層した多層膜を発光層とする発光素子は90%以上の発光出力を有しており、その範囲外では急激に出力が低下する傾向にある。その理由は前記したように、厚膜の1 nt Gai N層を多層膜とすると、一つの1 nt Gai N層中に格子欠陥ができやすくなるため出力が低下すると考えられる。

[0013]

【実施例】以下有機金属気相成長法により、本発明の室 化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光素子を製造する方法を述 べる。

【0014】 【実施例1】 サファイア基板1を反応容器内に配置し、サファイア基板1のクリーニングを行った後、成長温度を510℃にセットし、キャリアガスとして水素、原料ガスとしてアンモニアとTMG(トリメチルガリウム)とを用い、サファイア基板上にGaNよりなるパッファ層2を約200オングストロームの襲厚で成長させる。

【0015】パッファ暦2成長後、TMGのみ止めて、 温度を1030℃まで上昇させる。1030℃になった ら、同じく原料ガスにTMGとアンモニアガス、ドーパ ントガスにシランガスを用い、Siをドープしたn型G aN暦4を4μm成長させる。

【0016】 n型GaN層4成長後、原料ガス、ドーパントガスを止め、温度を800℃にして、キャリアガスを窒素に切り替え、原料ガスとしてTMGとTMI(トリメチルインジウム)とアンモニアを用い、井戸暦としてIn0.2Ga0.8N層4を20オングストローム成長させる。次に、TMIの流気を1/5に減らすことにより、障壁暦としてIn0.04Ga0.96N層4。を20オングストロームの膜厚で成長させる。この操作を繰り返し、各20オングストロームの膜厚で第1にIn0.2Ga0.8N層4、第2にIn0.04Ga0.96N層4。第3にIn0.2Ga0.8N層4、第4にIn0.04Ga0.96N層4。第5にIn0.2Ga0.8N層4を交互に積層した総膜厚100オングストロームの多層膜を成長する。

【0017】 次に、原料ガスを止め、再び温度を102 0でまで上昇させ、原料ガスとしてTMGとアンモニ ア、ドーパントガスとしてCp2Mg(シクロペンタジ エニルマグネシウム)とを用い、Mgをドープしたp即 5

【0018】p型GaN層5成長後、基板を反応容器から取り出し、アニーリング装置にて空素雰囲気中、700でで20分間アニーリングを行い、最上層のp型GaN層をさらに低抵抗化する。以上のようにして得られた発光素子の構造を示す断面図を図1に示す。

【0019】以上のようにして得られたウエハーのp型 GaN層5と多層膜層の一部をエッチングにより取り除き、n型GaN層と、n型 GaN層とにオーミック電極を設け、500μm角のチップにカットした後、常法に従い発光ダイオードとした 10 ところ、発光出力は20mAにおいて800μW、発光 彼長410nmと、十分実用レベルに達していた。

【0020】 [実施例2] 実施例1において、多層膜層のそれぞれの成長時間を2.5倍にして、1 n0.2G a 0.8N層を50オングストローム、1 n0.04G a 0.96N 層を50オングストロームの膜厚で成長する他は同様にして発光ダイオードを得たところ、発光出力は20mAにおいて720μW、発光波長410nmであった。

【0022】 [比較例1] 実施例1において、多層膜層のそれぞれの成長時間を3倍にして、In0.2G a0.8N 層を60オングストローム、In0.04G a0.96N層を60オングストロームの膜厚で成長する他は同様にして発30

光ダイオードを得たところ、20mAにおいて発光出力 は360μWであった。

【0023】 [比較例2] 実施例1において、多層膜層を成長する代わりに単一の I n0.2G a0.8N層を100オングストロームの膜厚で成長する他は同様にして発光ダイオードを得たところ、20mAにおいて発光出力180μW、発光波長420nmであった。

[0024]

【発明の効果】以上説明したように、本発明の空化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光素子は、p-n接合を利用したダブルヘテロ構造とし、さらに発光層を限定された誤解のIn(Ga: N層よりなる多層膜としているため、n型空化ガリウム系化合物半導体層、及びp型空化ガリウム系化合物半導体層とのミスフィットが小さくなり、発光層全体の結晶性が向上する。それにより、発光出力が飛躍的に向上し、空化ガリウム系化合物半導体発光素子を十分な実用レベルにまですることができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】 本発明の一実施例に係る発光素子の構造を示 20 す模式断面図。

【図2】 本発明の一実施例に係る発光素子における多 層膜の各膜厚と、発光素子の相対発光出力との関係を示 す図。

【符号の説明】

1 ・・・・・サファイア基板

2 ·····GaNパッファ層

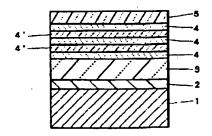
3 ・・・・・n型GaN層

4 · · · · · I n0.2G a 0.8N層

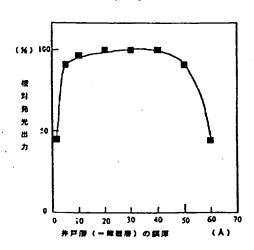
4 · · · · · · I n 0.04G a 0.96 N 層

) 5 ・・・・・p型GaN層

(図1)



[図2]





Publication of Unexamined (Kokai) Patent Application No. 6-268257

Application Number: No. 5-79045

Date of Filing: March 12, 1993

Date of Publication: September 22, 1994

Applicant: NICHIA CHEM. IND., LTD.

Inventors: Shuji NAKAMURA and Naruhito IWASA

Title of the Invention: GALLIUM NITRIDE COMPOUND

SEMICONDUCTOR LIGHT EMITTING ELEMENT

Abstract:

Object: To improve a gallium nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting element in light-emission output more.

Constitution: A gallium nitride compound semiconductor

1 light-emitting element having, as a light-emitting layer, a multilayered film wherein $In_xGa_{1-x}N$ (provided that X is 0<X<1) layers with different X values are alternately stacked between an n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer and a p-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer, each of the $In_xGa_{1-x}N$ layers

constituting the multilayered film having a film thickness in the range between 5 $\mbox{\normalfont\AA}$ and 50 $\mbox{\normalfont\AA}$.

What is claimed is:

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- 1. A gallium nitride compound semiconductor lightemitting element having, as a light-emitting layer, a multilayered film wherein ${\rm In_xGa_{1-x}N}$ (where 0<X<1) layers with different X values are alternately stacked between an n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer and a p-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer, each of the ${\rm In_xGa_{1-x}N}$ layers constituting the multilayered film having a film thickness in the range between 5 Å and 50 Å.
- 2. The gallium nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting element according to Claim 1, wherein the n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer is composed of $Ga_{Y}Al_{1-Y}N$ (where $0<Y\le 1$), and the p-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer is composed of $Ga_{Z}Al_{1-Z}N$ (where $0<Z\le 1$).
 - 3. The gallium nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting element according to Claim 1, wherein the X values of the $In_xGa_{1-x}N$ layers are in the range of 0<X<0.5.
- 20 Detailed explanation of the invention:

[0001]

Technical field to which the invention pertains:

The present invention relates to a light-emitting element using a gallium nitride compound semiconductor.

25 [0002]

Prior art:

A gallium nitride compound semiconductor, such as GaN, GaAlN, InGaN or InAlGaN, is a direct transition type, and its band gap varies from 1.95 cV to 6 cV. Therefore, it is regarded as a promising material for a light-emitting element such as a light-emitting diode or a laser diode. At present, as the light-emitting element using this material, an MIS-structured blue light-emitting diode wherein a p-type dopant-doped high-resistance i-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor is stacked onto an n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor is known.

[0003]

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general, since the MIS-structured Ιn emitting element has an extremely low light-emission output, its practical use has not been attained yet. A technique for making a p-n junction light-emitting diode, wherein a high-resistance i-type semiconductor element is made a lowresistance p-type element, is disclosed in, for example, Japanese Patent Kokai Publication No. 3-218325 discloses a technique of irradiating an i-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer with an electron beam. Further, in Japanese Patent Kokai Publication No. 3-357046, we proposed a technique of annealing an i-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer at 400°C or higher so as to make it a low-resistance p-type.

[0004]

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Problem to be solved by the invention:

A light-emitting element using a gallium nitride compound semiconductor has been studied from the viewpoints of both MIS structures and p-n junctions. However, even a homostructured light-emitting element using a p-n junction of GaN has a light-emission output of only several microwatts to several tens of microwatts, which was not sufficient for practical use. The present invention was made in view of the above circumstances, and an object thereof is to improve the light-emission output of the gallium nitride compound semiconductor element more.

[0005]

Means of solving the problem:

We found that the above problem could be solved 15 by giving a gallium nitride compound semiconductor lightemitting diode a doublehetero structure using a junction and moreover forming its light-emitting layer from a multilayered film composed of In_xGa_{1-x}N layers specified 20 That is, the gallium nitride compound in thickness. semiconductor light-emitting element οf the invention is characterized by having, as a light-emitting layer, a multilayered film wherein $In_xGa_{1-x}N$ (where 0<X<1) layers with different X values are alternately stacked 25 between an n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor

layer and a p-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer, each of the $In_xGa_{1-x}N$ layers constituting the multilayered film having a film thickness in the range between 5 Å and 50 Å.

5 [0006]

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In the gallium nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting element of the present invention, the n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer to be used includes a non-doped (dopant-free) gallium nitride compound semiconductor, such as GaN, GaAlN, InGaN or Alternatively, it may also include a layer grown in a manner so as to exhibit the n-type characteristic by doping, for example, an n-type dopant, such as Si, Ge, Te or Se, gallium nitride compound the non-doped n-type In particular, the n-type gallium nitride semiconductor. compound semiconductor is preferably composed of a gallium aluminum nitride of binary mixed crystal or ternary mixed crystal, such as $Ga_{\gamma}Al_{1-\gamma}N$ (where $0<Y\leq 1$), in comparison with a gallium nitride compound semiconductor containing indium, because an n-type crystal having superior crystallinity is This increases the light-emission output of the element, which is more preferred.

[0007]

The p-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer to be used includes a layer grown in a manner so as

to exhibit the p-type characteristic by doping, for example, an p-type dopant, such as Zn, Mg, Cd, Be or Ca, into the non-doped gallium nitride compound semiconductor. particular, the p-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor is preferably composed of a gallium aluminum nitride of binary mixed crystal or ternary mixed crystal, such as $Ga_zAl_{1-z}N$ (where $0<Z\leq 1$), in comparison with a gallium nitride compound semiconductor containing indium, because a p-type crystal having superior crystallinity and a lower resistance is obtained. As a means of reducing the the p-type gallium nitride compound resistance of semiconductor layer more, annealing treatment disclosed in the Japanese Patent Kokai Publication No. 3-357046 may be The reduction in the resistance makes it performed. possible to improve the light-emission output more.

[8000]

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 $In_XGa_{1-X}N$ layers constitute a multilayered film structure wherein the $In_XGa_{1-X}N$ (where 0<X<1) layers with different X values are stacked alternately, and the film thickness of each of the $In_XGa_{1-X}N$ layers constituting the multilayered film requires to be adjusted in the range between 5 Å and 50 Å. By stacking the $In_XGa_{1-X}N$ layers with different X values alternately, the multilayered film becomes a quantum well structure, whereby it is possible to increase the light-emission output as well as to reduce the

lattice constant mismatch between the n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor and the p-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor. Also, a light-emitting layer formed by a multilayered film has fewer lattice defects in a crystal compared with a light-emitting layer formed by a single InGaN layer instead of the multilayered resulting in an improvement in crystallinity. film, Furthermore, by adjusting the film thickness of the In_xGa₁₋ $_{x}N$ layers within the range of 5 Å - 50 Å, the lightemission output can be improved. The reason thereof is as follows: that is, the adjustment of the film thickness within this range can reduce the number of lattice defects in the In, Gal, N layers constituting the multilayered film, and thus the crystallinity is improved resulting in an increase in the light-emission output. For example, in the case of a growth method using the MOCVD method, the film thickness of the In_xGa_{1-x}N layers can be adjusted controlling the flow rate of Ga source as a source gas or by controlling the growth time. The composition ratio of the $In_xGa_{1-x}N$ layers can be adjusted by controlling the gas flow rate of In source as a source gas, or by controlling the growth temperature. Furthermore, it is a matter of course that an n-type dopant or a p-type dopant may be doped into the $In_xGa_{1-x}N$ layers to grow them.

25 [0009]

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It is preferred that the X values of the $In_XGa_{1-X}N$ layers are adjusted within the range of 0<X<0.5. If the X values are 0.5 or more, $In_XGa_{1-X}N$ layers superior in crystallinity are hardly obtained, and thus a lightemitting element superior in light-emission efficiency is hardly obtained. Therefore, the X values are preferably within the range of less than 0.5. For realization of a blue light-emitting element which has not yet been put into practical use, it is required to adjust the X values within the above range.

[0010]

[Action]

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For example, in the case of a light-emitting element having a doublehetero structure wherein an n-type GaN layer, a 100 Å-film-thick In0.2Ga0.8N layer and a p-type GaN layer are stacked in order, the lattice constant of GaN is about 3.19 Å, while the lattice constant of InN is about 3.54 Å. In the light-emitting element having this structure, a lattice-constant mismatch at an interface between the GaN layer and the In0.2Ga0.8N layer is as much as about 2.2 %. Therefore, a lattice defect is developed at the interface between the GaN layer and the In0.2Ga0.8N layer due to a misfit, which results in a deterioration in the crystallinity of the In0.2Ga0.8N layer that is a light-emitting layer. This becomes a factor in lowering of the

light-emission output.

[0011]

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However, if, as in the present invention, In0.2Ga0.8N layer is replaced, for example, with a quantum well-structured multilayered film having a total lightemitting film thickness of 100 Å, wherein three In0.2Ga0.8N layers serving as well layers, each having a film thickness of 20 Å, and two In0.04Ga0.96N layers serving as barrier layers, each having a film thickness of 20 alternately stacked, (that is, a light-emitting element having a structure consisting of an n-type GaN layer plus a well layer plus a barrier layer plus a well layer plus a barrier layer plus a well layer plus a p-type GaN layer), then the average composition of the $In_xGa_{1-x}N$ layers as the light-emitting layer becomes In0.12Ga0.88N. As a result, the lattice constant mismatch between the well layer and the GaN layer becomes about 1.3 %, and thus the mismatch is reduced. Moreover, since the In0.2Ga0.8N layers that are the well layers emit light, the light-emission wavelength is hardly changed. Accordingly, when the whole multilayered film is regarded as one light-emitting layer, the lattice constant mismatch is reduced, and thus the crystallinity of the light-emitting layer is because of the reduction of the lattice constant mismatch. As a result, the InGaN layers with fewer lattice defects as

the whole can serve as the light-emitting layer resulting in an increase in the light-emission output.

[0012]

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Fig.2 shows the relationship between the film thickness and the relative light-emission output of the with the multilayered light-emitting element film (consisting of the n-type GaN + In0.2Ga0.8N + In0.04Ga0.96N + In0.2Ga0.8N + In0.04Ga0.96N + In0.2Ga0.8N + p-type GaN layers), provided that each layer of the multilayered film has the same film thickness. As shown in the figure, a light-emitting element using a multilayered film formed by stacking In_xGa_{1-x}N layers as the light-emitting layer, each of which layers is adjusted so as to have a film thickness in the range between 5Å and 50Å, has a relative lightemission output of at least 90 %. Out of the above range, the light-emission output tends to lower sharply. reason thereof is considered as follows: as described above, a thick-film $In_xGa_{1-x}N$ is replaced with a multilayered film, a lattice defect is liable to occur more in one $In_xGa_{1-x}N$ film resulting in lowering of the output.

[0013]

[Examples]

A process for producing a gallium nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting element according to the present invention by the metal organic chemical vapor

deposition (MOCVD) method is hereinafter described.

[0014]

[Example 1]

A sapphire substrate 1 was placed within a reaction vessel, and then the sapphire substrate 1 was cleaned. After that, setting the growth temperature to 510°C, a buffer layer 2 made of GaN was grown to a film thickness of about 200 Å using hydrogen as a carrier gas, and ammonia and TMG (trimethyl gallium) as source gases.

10 [0015]

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After the growth of the buffer layer 2, supply of TMG was only terminated and then the temperature was raised to 1030° C. When the temperature reached 1030° C, an Sidoped n-type GaN layer 4 was grown to a film thickness of 4 μ m using TMG and ammonia as the source gases, and a silane gas as a dopant gas.

[0016]

After the growth of the n-type GaN layer 4, supply of the source gases and the dopant gas were terminated. Adjusting the temperature to 800°C, and switching the carrier gas to nitrogen, an In0.2Ga0.8N layer 4 was grown to a film thickness of 20 Å as a well layer, using TMG, TMI (trimethyl indium) and ammonia as source gases. Next, as a barrier layer, an In0.04Ga0.96N layer 4' was grown to a film thickness of 20 Å by reducing the flow

rate of TMI to one fifth. This process was repeated to thereby grow a multilayered film having a total film thickness of 100 Å, wherein firstly, an In0.2Ga0.8N layer 4, secondly, an In0.04Ga0.96N layer 4', thirdly, an In0.2Ga0.8N layer 4, fourthly, an In0.04Ga0.96N layer 4', and fifthly, an In0.2Ga0.8N layer 4 are alternately stacked in the film thickness of each of the layers of 20 Å.

[0017]

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Next, terminating the supply of the source gases and raising the temperature to 1020°C again, an MG-doped ptype GaN layer 5 was grown to a film thickness of 5 µm using TMG and ammonia as source gases, and Cp2Mg (cyclopentadienyl magnesium) as a dopant gas.

[0018]

After the growth of the p-type GaN layer 5, the substrate was taken out of the reaction vessel, and then annealed with an annealing apparatus in an atmosphere of nitrogen at 70°C for 20 minutes so as to reduce the resistance of the uppermost p-type GaN layer more. A cross sectional view showing the structure of the light-emitting element thus obtained is shown in Fig. 1.

[0019]

The GaN layer 5 and the multilayered film of the wafer thus obtained was partially removed by etching so that the n-type GaN layer 3 was exposed. The p-type GaN

layer and the n-type GaN layer were provided with ohmic electrodes. The resultant wafer was cut into a 500 μ m-square chip, thus making a light-emitting diode according to a conventional manner. The resultant light-emitting diode had a light-emission output of 800 μ W at 20 mA and a light-emission wavelength of 410 nm, achieving a level of practical use sufficiently.

[0020]

[Example 2]

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manner as in Example 1, except that the growth time of the respective layers of the multilayered film was extended 2.5 times so that the film thicknesses of the In0.2Ga0.8N layers and the In0.04Ga0.96N layers were all 50 Å. The resultant light-emitting diode had a light-emission output of 720 μW at 20 mA, and a light-emission wavelength of 410 nm.

[0021]

[Example 3]

A light-emitting diode was obtained in the same manner as in Example 1, except that, in the processes of growing the n-type GaN layer 3 and the p-type GaN layer 5, TMA (trimethyl aluminum) was newly added to the source gases so as to make the n-type GaN layer and the p-type GaN layer and Si-doped n-type GaO.9AlO.1N layer and an Mg-doped

p-type Ga0.9Al0.1N layer, respectively. The light-emission output and light-emission wavelength of the resultant diode had almost the same level as those of Example 1.

[0022]

5 [Comparative Example 1]

A light-emitting diode was obtained in the same manner as in Example 1, except that the growth time of the respective layers of the multilayered film was extended 3 times so that the film thicknesses of the In0.2Ga0.8N layers and the In0.04Ga0.96N layers were all 60 Å. The resultant light-emitting diode had a light-emission output of 360 μ W at 20 mA.

[0023]

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[Comparative Example 2]

A light-emitting diode was obtained in the same manner as in Example 1, except that a single In0.2Ga0.8N layer was grown to a film thickness of 100 Å instead of growing a multilayered film. The resultant light-emitting diode had a light-emission output of 80 μ W at 20 mA, and had a light-emission wavelength of 420 nm.

[0024]

Effect of the invention:

As described above, the gallium nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting element of the present invention has a doublehetero structure using a p-n junction,

and moreover its light-emitting layer is formed from a multilayered film composed of IntGa1-tN layers specified in Therefore, a misfit dislocation between the nthickness. type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer and the p-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor layer reduced resulting in the improvement in the crystallinity of the whole light-emitting layer. This improvement the light-emission output, remarkably improves making it possible to attain a level sufficient practical use of the gallium nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting element.

Brief explanation of the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a schematic cross sectional view showing the structure of a light-emitting element according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a view showing the relationship between the film thickness of each layer of a multilayered film of a light-emitting element according to one embodiment of the present invention and the relative light-emission output of the light-emitting element.

Explanation of numerals:

1 · · · · · sapphire substrate

2·····GaN buffer layer

25 3 ····n-type GaN layer

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4·····In0.2Ga0.8N layer
4'···· In0.04Ga0.96N layer
5·····p-type GaN layer

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Fig. 2
axis of ordinates: Relative light-emission output
axis of abscissas: Film thickness of well layer (barrier layer)

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